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Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

El Salvador: draft resolution

Comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the obligations contained in the relevant human rights instruments,

Reaffirming also that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, such as age, race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Recalling all General Assembly resolutions on matters relating to older persons, including older women, beginning with resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, and the latest resolution, which is resolution 66/127 of 19 December 2011,

Recalling also all relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women on the promotion and protection of the rights and dignity of older persons,

Reaffirming the outcomes of the World Assembly on Ageing, held in Vienna, in 1982,[2] the United Nations Principles for Older Persons of 1991,[3] the global targets

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See *Report of the World Assembly on Ageing, Vienna, 26 July-6 August 1982* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16).

[3] Resolution 46/91, annex.

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on ageing for the year 2001, as agreed in 1992,[4] and the Proclamation on Ageing of 1992,[5] as well as the outcomes of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid, in 2002[6] and the respective follow-up reviews, in particular as they pertain to the promotion of the rights and well-being of older persons on an equal and participatory basis,

Recognizing that different efforts made to increase cooperation and integration and increasing awareness and sensitivity to ageing issues since the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action[7] by Governments, relevant bodies of the United Nations system and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, have not been sufficient to promote full and effective participation by and opportunities for older persons in economic, social, cultural and political life,

Recalling its resolution 65/182 of 21 December 2010, in which it decided to establish an open-ended working group, open to all States Members of the United Nations, for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons by considering the existing international framework of the human rights of older persons and identifying possible gaps and how best to address them, including by considering, as appropriate, the feasibility of further instruments and measures,

Recalling also its resolution 66/127, in which it designated 15 June as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, and invited States and relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights mandate holders and treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as intergovernmental and relevant civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, with an interest in the matter, to continue to contribute to highlighting the urgent need to eliminate all forms of abuse and violence against older persons, as appropriate,

Recognizing that, by 2050, more than 20 per cent of the world's population will be 60 years old or older, and recognizing also that the increase in the number of older people will be greatest and most rapid in the developing world,

Recognizing also the essential contribution that older men and women can continue to make to the functioning of society if adequate guarantees, means and resources, as well as the highest possible level of health care, are in place, and that older persons must be full participants in the development process and also share its benefits,

Reaffirming the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their respective follow-up reviews, in particular as they pertain to the promotion of the human rights and the well-being of older persons on an equal and participatory basis,

Encouraged by the increasing interest of the international community in the promotion and protection of the rights and dignity of older persons in the world under a comprehensive and integral approach,

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[4] See A/47/339, sect. III.

[5] Resolution 47/5, annex.

[6] See *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4).

[7] Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Taking into account that there are numerous obligations vis-à-vis older persons implicit in most core human rights treaties but that explicit references to age in core international human rights treaties are scarce, that there is no such instrument for older persons, and that only a few instruments contain explicit references to age,

Welcoming the report of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing on its first working session[8] and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation of older persons,[9] both of which include recommendations towards a convention to remedy the existing gaps regarding older persons in the current mechanisms and instruments,

1. *Decides* to upgrade the existing Open-ended Working Group on Ageing to an Ad Hoc Committee, open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations and observers, as an intergovernmental process to consider proposals for a binding international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons, based on the holistic approach in the work done in the fields of social development, human rights and non-discrimination, as well as gender equality and the empowerment of women, and taking into account the inputs of the Human Rights Council, the reports of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and the recommendations of the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women;

2. *Also decides* that, during the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the Ad Hoc Committee shall hold at least one meeting of a duration no shorter than five working days;

3. *Invites* States, relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector with an interest in the matter to make contributions to the work entrusted to the Ad Hoc Committee, based on the practice of the United Nations;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), to submit to the Ad Hoc Committee, prior to its first session, a compilation of existing international legal instruments, documents and programmes which directly or indirectly address the situation of older persons, including, inter alia, those of conferences, summits, meetings or international or regional seminars convened by the United Nations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

5. *Calls upon* States, in cooperation with the regional commissions, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Division for Social Policy and Development and UN-Women, to hold regional meetings or seminars to contribute to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee by making recommendations regarding the content and practical measures that should be considered in the international convention;

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[8] A/AC.278/2011/4 and Corr.1.

[9] E/2012/51 and Corr.1.

6. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly, before the end of its sixty-eighth session, a first draft of an international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Ad Hoc Committee with the facilities necessary for the performance of its work;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee.